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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th September 1903.

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I.—Foreign Politics.

THE *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th August gives translations of portions of the speeches made by Messrs. Ali and Abdul Gani in a special meeting of the British Indian Association at Johannesberg, and writes as follows:— BANGAVASI, Aug. 29th, 1903.

The condition of Indians in South Africa.

Such is the treatment which British subjects receive from the British Sovereign in British territory! Is it a dream or a reality? Mr. Chamberlain surely saw everything with his own eyes when touring in South Africa and South African Indians represented their case to him. The Military Government which ruled the Transvaal at the close of the Boer War gave its word that the grievances of South African Indians would come to an end with the establishment of civil government in the country. It is hoped that the Transvaal Government will now fulfil this promise and do justice to Indian immigrants in South Africa. We also request the Viceroy of India to be up and doing in the matter.

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police.*

2. A correspondent writes to the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 22nd August as follows:— PRATINIDHI, Aug. 22nd, 1903.

Increase of murders in the Tippera district.

How is it that, in spite of all the elaborate arrangements for the detection and punishment of criminals, murders are continually on the increase in the Tippera district? Whatever answer the authorities may give to this question, we cannot but hold the Police and the Subordinate Magistracy responsible for it. People seeking justice in the Courts at great expense often get the reverse of it, and the pity is that such instances are by no means few. Deputy Magistrates nowadays refuse to take up cases in which only kicks and blows are complained of. Nothing short of grievous hurt satisfies them. In addition to this state of things already existing, the District Magistrate is said to have issued instructions with the view of minimising the number of petty cases. Complainants are obliged in most cases to remain in painful suspense for four or five days after filing their petitions. Then, perhaps, most of the cases are dismissed on the examination of the complainant. On the other hand, nothing is gained if the cases are taken up for trial. For then the complainant, after being compelled to dance attendance in court five or six times, and being roughly handled by police officers, is at last glad to give up his case in disgust. The truth, however, is that one must unstring one's purse if one wishes to proceed well with his cases in these days. Poor peasants, ignorant of the present state of things, find to their cost, that justice is not meant for them. These causes operate as a deterrent upon persons wishing to go to law for justice, and they prefer putting up with their wrongs to undertaking such a risky enterprise. These people are thus tempted to take the law into their own hands, and to this cause is due the murders that are so frequently perpetrated.

3. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 25th August gives the following cases of murder:— CHARU MIHIR, Aug. 25th, 1903.

Murders in the Mymensingh district.

(1) Isan Chandra Chakraverti, an inhabitant of Singdha, a village in the Netrakona subdivision, was murdered on Monday last, while on his way to Andaria, another village. His body was identified by his relatives.

(2) Navakisor Sarkar, a muharrir of Babu Asvini Kumar Guha, a mukhtear of Mymensingh, was found lying dead on the road. There were numerous marks of violence on the body, and a *dao* was found near the dead body.

(3) The corpses of Dinamani Chandalini and Dinanath Changa were found in a *beel* near *mauza* Bawa in Gafargaon.

In none of these four murders has the criminal been traced or arrested. It is doubtful whether the Mymensingh town police will be able to trace the murderer of Navakisor Sarkar. This case has caused great consternation in the town.

HITAVADI, Aug. 28th, 1903.

The chaukidars in a village in the Birbhum district.

4. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th August says that there are three chaukidars in the Nagari village in the Birbhum district, two for patrolling and other purposes and one for guarding the crops of the villagers. This last man, whose impertinence and threatening attitude have made him dreaded in the village, does a good deal of harm to standing crops by admitting cattle into the fields. The other two men never go on rounds in the village. The panchayet is nevertheless inexorable in the matter of realising the chaukidari-tax even from the poorest villager.

NAVA YUG, Aug. 29th, 1903.

Bogus firms in Calcutta.

5. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 29th August writes as follows:—

From the report of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, it appears that there are 28 bogus firms in Calcutta, which deceive mufassal people by publishing false, alluring advertisements in the newspapers. This being *Puja* time, these firms will have extensive business with mufassal people who would have been greatly benefited if the Police Commissioner had published their names and addresses. As far as our information goes, there are at least fifty such firms in various places in Calcutta. These sham advertisers are to be found in Chandney, Okhil Mistri's Lane, Jaynarayan Chandra's Lane, Satrughan Ghose's Lane, Mirzapore Street and other places. They publish their advertisements in the mufassal newspapers and send out catalogues by post.

There are many advertising quacks who give English names to their firms, such as R. Login and Company, W. Charles and Company, W. Wallace and Company, etc. It is said that Mohendra Lal Ghosh, the originator of W. Wallace and Company, has incorporated his firm with W. Major and Company. Padma Lochan Maiti, representing Major and Company, has started an English newspaper called the *Illustrated Police News*, of which the editor is Babu Hemchandra Datta. We have been credibly informed that the gentleman representing R. Login and Company is a Government servant.

BASUMATI, Aug. 29th, 1903.

Cattle-lifting in some villages in the Howrah district.

6. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 29th August complains of the prevalence of cattle-lifting within the jurisdiction of the Sankrail thana in the Howrah district. The other day the inhabitants of Haripal and the neighbouring villages petitioned the District Magistrate in the matter. Cattle are the chief property of the cultivators, who form the bulk of the population of these villages. Cattle are being stolen and killed with great cruelty for the sake of their skins. The police is indifferent in the matter.

HITAVARTA, Aug. 30th, 1903.

The *morale* of European policemen.

7. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 30th August says that the Annual Report on the Administration of the Police, which has recently been published, shows that the manner in which policemen conduct themselves is very unsatisfactory, and that *zulum*, *zubardusti*, corruption, and drunkenness are common among the European policemen.

(*b*)—*Working of the Courts.*

SANJIVANI, Aug. 27th, 1903.

A Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh.

8. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 27th August draws the attention of Government to the notice served upon Babu Nayananjan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh, by Babu Giris Chandra Ganguli, a mukhtear of that place, for the recovery of Rs. 3,000 as compensation. It is stated in the notice that the Deputy Magistrate behaved to the mukhtear most unbecomingly and insultingly in open Court. The mukhtear served the notice under section 424 of the Civil Procedure Code on the 20th August 1903, giving the intimation that on the failure of the Deputy Magistrate to pay the compensation within two months, a suit would be brought against him in the proper Court.

HITAVADI, Aug. 28th, 1903.

The Extra Assistant Commissioner of Habiganj.

9. Babu Dakshina Charan Sen, the Extra Assistant Commissioner of Habiganj, is determined, says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th August, not to mend his ways. He is trying his best to discover the person or persons who have been writing against him in the *Hitavadi*.

Dakshina Babu has many relatives in Habiganj, and the local public seriously question his honesty and uprightness in the cases in which they are

interested. For instance, on the 10th August last, the defendants in case No. $\frac{7}{19}$ of 1903, Arai Nikari *versus* Chhagir Sheik and others, applied to him for time to move the High Court for a transfer of the case from his file under section 526 of the Criminal Procedure Code on the ground that the plaintiff had engaged as his pleader one Giris Babu, who was a relative of Dakshina Babu. Curiously enough, Dakshina Babu has rejected the application under section 344 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which says that "the Court *may*, if it thinks fit, * * postpone or adjourn, etc., etc." But the grounds for the above application are covered by section 528, clause 8, which says that "the Court *shall* exercise the powers of postponement or adjournment given by section 344, etc., etc." Does not Dakshina Babu understand the difference between the above two sections?

The editor here corrects some mistakes which crept into a previous article on this subject, and says that in it $\frac{32}{5}$ of 1903, $\frac{206}{5}$ of 1903, and $\frac{81}{6}$ of 1903 should be read as $\frac{5}{32}$ of 1903, $\frac{5}{206}$ of 1903, and $\frac{6}{81}$ of 1903. (See Report on Native Papers of the 15th August 1903, paragraph 27.)

10. The same paper says that on the 30th June last, a police constable, who had a ticket for the Sealdah railway station, alighted at the Kharhdaha station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway and quarrelled with the Booking Clerk of the station.

Maulavi Bazlal Karim, Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah.

HITAVADI, Aug. 28th, 1903.

A case ensued, in which the latter charged the constable, who could not be found, with having obstructed him in the discharge of his duty. The investigating *daroga* could not at first trace the accused person and submitted a C form. But afterwards information was received from a constable named Harapal Sing, of the Kharhdaha thana, and constable Bhavasagar Sing of the Fenwick Bazar thana, Calcutta, was arrested as the accused person and was identified by the Assistant Station Master and the complainant. Harpal Sing said that he was present at the time of occurrence, and his evidence was corroborated by the Assistant Station Master of Kharhdaha. The accused Bhavasagar said in his defence that the case was false, that he had a quarrel with Harapal Sing, who was a fellow-villager of his, and that he was in Calcutta on the day of occurrence. The Inspector and Drill Corporal of the Fenwick Bazar thana produced official records to show that the accused person was really in Calcutta on the day of occurrence. The trying officer, Maulavi Bazlal Karim, the notorious Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah, believed the story of the defence, acquitted the accused person, and wrote to the railway authorities asking them to punish the Booking Clerk and Assistant Station Master for having brought a false case. Now, there may not have been sufficient evidence to support the prosecution, but it became only a judge like the Maulavi, who has gained a notoriety for arbitrariness and highhandedness, to say that the case was false and to recommend the punishment of the railway servants on the bare evidence of a Police Inspector and a Drill Corporal, both official superiors of the accused person. What could be the motive of the Boking Clerk and the Assistant Station Master of Kharhdaha in bringing a false case against an obscure man, a constable of the Fenwick Bazar thana? On the other hand, the accused person's presence at Kharhdaha could be accounted for by the fact that he had relatives there. Again, an idea of the character of the accused person can be formed from the fact that at present he stands charged in the Calcutta Police Court with having beaten a boy. It is hoped that the railway authorities will not take the Maulavi's word and punish the Booking Clerk and Assistant Station Master.

11. Referring to the conviction of and sentence passed on Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak by the Special Magistrate of Poona, the same paper says that people anticipated no better decision, seeing the manner in which Government appeared determined to bring about the conviction of Mr. Tilak and the trying Magistrate showed favour to the prosecution at every step. The defence satisfactorily proved that the charges against Mr. Tilak were false. But alas! Mr. Tilak is one of the few unfortunate Indians whose only offence is that they are not liked by the powers that be.

Mr. Tilak's conviction.

HITAVADI.

12. Referring to the decision of the High Court in the Bain case, the *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd September says that the Hon'ble Judge has disbelieved

The Bain case in the High Court.

PEOPLE AND PRATIVASI, Sept. 2nd, 1903.

"the statement that the prisoner continued beating the deceased for an hour" as "evidently exaggerated." But His Lordship ought to have known that coolies do not keep watches with them, and that moments of pain and misery always appear to the sufferers longer than they actually are. It may be that Bain did not at all beat Lalasa, or that Lalasa's weak spleen, easily ruptured, brought about his death; but there was no ground for disbelieving the evidence of eye-witnesses. The Judge also disbelieved the evidence as to the beating of the coolie women. After all, His Lordship discharged Bain. People are gradually losing their faith in the High Court, and the manner in which it is showing weakness in cases agaist Europeans has really alarmed them. In this state of things it is a mistake to seek redress in the law Courts against European oppressors.

PEOPLE AND PRATIVASI, Sept. 2nd, 1903.

13. The same paper has the following in its English columns:—

The Bain case.

Doctors differ. But Justice Sale of the Calcutta High Court in disposing of the Bain case has differed a little unusually from the rest of erring humanity. The Sessions Judge of Silchar convicted Mr. Bain of causing simple hurt to a coolie woman. This was taken to be a much too lenient view of the case. So Government moved the High Court in the hope of having the accused properly punished. Government while taking this step could not perhaps see that the evidence which to ordinary mortals is sufficiently incriminating will appear nothing but a white speck to one soaring so high. Go, Mr. Bain, back to your old ways.

When a Judge says I think so, who is to question his thinking? Arguments can be met, but empiric opinions from such quarters have to be acquiesced in. It is an obviously exaggerated statement, says the Judge, that the prisoner continued beating the deceased for an hour. The medical evidence lends no support to any suggestion of this kind. We can understand His Lordship's disbelieving the statement on the ground that medical evidence lends no support to it. But how did the obviousness of the exaggeration strike His Lordship? Of course the witness who deposed to the accused having beaten the deceased for an hour had no means of measuring time; all that he or they wanted to convey was that the beating was continued for a sufficiently long time. Then, again, how can medical evidence be a proper index for the duration of the beating? Does his Lordship mean to suggest that every time the lash was laid on, a scar should have been left on the body? The Judge has given us no theory as to how the death was caused. The accused caused neither simple nor grievous hurt,—at least there is no evidence to show that he did either,—but death is not an obviously exaggerated fact. It has to be accounted for. The Justice has expressed astonishment that the jury of Silchar upon the evidence could have convicted the accused upon the charge of simple hurt. The flimsy nature of the evidence has not been exposed, so we are equally astonished that the common sense of the English jury should have been thus assailed.

The *Englishman* has scored a point. He has a fling at Government for having moved the High Court for a fresh trial. Says our contemporary:—

"It is not at once easy to imagine or discover the particular incidents of the case which so impressed the Government as to induce them to appeal against Mr. Bain's acquittal, and demand his retrial on the graver charges, and failing that, to demand an enhancement of his punishment on the actual conviction. It is perhaps not quite fair to the Government of Bengal, at any rate, if it acted on its own motion in the matter, to suppose that it can have been influenced by the malevolent articles appearing on the case in native newspapers, very near the end of Mr. Bain's term of imprisonment."

There is nothing to wonder at in the above sentiment. No one expects a judicial attitude from the *Englishman*. But in this case the High Court Judge has even surpassed the *Englishman*. Our contemporary holds that the Sessions Judge of Silchar and the European jury did only what was right in finding the accused guilty of simple hurt. But Justice Sale cannot even bear so much. The *Englishman* says:—

"On the 20th February last the jury unanimously acquitted Mr. Bain of all the three serious charges laid against him, but found him guilty of

causing simple hurt to Lalsa, and the Judge, who had every opportunity of hearing the witnesses and observing their demeanour, and estimating their verdict in relation to the evidence tendered before him, accepted that verdict and sentenced Mr. Bain to six months' simple imprisonment. The evidence, such as it was, went to show that the beating which Lalsa received in the garden at the hands of two fellow-labourers was administered by means of stirrup leathers on the buttocks, a portion of the body on which schoolboys receive severe castigation without much result, and upon which the jury evidently thought neither death nor even grievous hurt could be guaranteed or even made possible by the means employed."

The *Englishman*, while congratulating Mr. Bain and the planting community on such a happy termination of the case, could not venture to suggest that the first Judge was in the wrong, but Justice Sale is at a loss to understand why Mr. Bain was convicted at all!

(*d*)—*Education.*

14. A correspondent writes to the *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 25th August, complaining that the Head Master of the Perozepur School, while one day passing along, met one Entad Ali, a Civil Court peon, on the road, who, probably from not seeing him coming, did not stand aside. This enraged him so much that he at once complained against the man. He made an apology, but this did not satisfy the Head Master, and there was an altercation. The result of the Head Master's complaint was that the poor man was suspended and ordered to forfeit one month's pay.

BIKAS, Aug. 25th, 1903.

The Head Master of the Perozepur School.

15. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 27th August writes as follows:—

JYOTI, Aug. 27th, 1903.

Mr. Abdul Karim, Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Division.

Mr. Abdul Karim, Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Division, has made a happy departure from the style of inspection work hitherto followed by officers of his class. He is not satisfied with merely examining the school accounts, asking the boys some questions, and, finally, dropping a few remarks in the visitors' book. In his recent visit to the Noakhali Zilla School, he not only directed his attention to the general progress of the boys, but took special notice of their indiscipline and moral degradation. He invited the guardians of the boys to a meeting and explained to them the importance of keeping a strict eye upon the boys, who were deplorably wanting in manners. The guardians seemed thoroughly impressed with the truth of what the Inspector said.

This novel method of inspection introduced by Mr. Abdul Karim, we cannot commend too much. We trust all inspecting officers will follow in his footsteps, and we doubt not that great good will be done to the country thereby.

16. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 27th August complains that the present professorial staff of the Presidency College is not what it used to be. Dr. P. K. Ray has been transferred to Dacca, and this arrangement has deprived the Presidency College of its best Professor of Philosophy. Dr. Asutosh Mukerji lately made it clear in the Bengal Legislative Council that the Presidency College no longer occupied its position of honour. English Professors on high pay are no doubt being imported from England, but none of them have the ability to occupy the Chair of English Literature. The action of Government in this respect is simply unintelligible.

SANJIVANI, Aug. 27th, 1903.

The professorial staff of the Presidency College, Calcutta.

17. The same paper writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI.

Educational reform or educational confusion?

There were formerly in Bengal three classes of schools known respectively as High English, Middle English or Vernacular, and Upper or Lower Primary, each of which was independent of the other two, and each of which was mainly designed for a particular class of students. Thus High English schools were designed for those who were ambitious of obtaining a liberal education, and the Middle English or Vernacular schools for those whose means did not permit them to aim so high, and who were anxious to obtain only such general knowledge of Literature and Science as was required

for the purposes of every-day life and as would qualify them for lower teacherships, *gurushipe*, mukhtearships or degrees from the vernacular medical schools, while the Upper and Lower Primary schools were designed for the sons of artisans, agriculturists, and shopkeepers, whose ambition went no higher than learning the three "R's." with a view to an intelligent pursuit of their ancestral callings. Only those among the Middle English or Middle Bengali students who obtained scholarships or had sufficient means of their own, entered High English schools with a view to obtain University education.

This was the system suited to a community subdivided like ours. But 20 or 25 years ago, the then Director of Public Instruction, Sir Alfred Croft, who was a highly intelligent and experienced officer, introduced the "amalgamation system," as an experimental measure, into a small number of zilla schools, and that not all at once into all the classes, like Mr. Pedler, but gradually, beginning with the lowest class. A few years' experience was enough to convince Sir Alfred Croft of the utter unsuitability of this system to High English schools. He therefore abolished it. Where was the need, we ask, of trying again a system which has already proved a failure? We can quite understand that it is very difficult for students of the lower classes in Entrance schools to understand text-books on Grammar, History, Geography, and Arithmetic written in English, and that it is, therefore, better that they should learn these subjects in Bengali. Nor are we opposed to the teaching of Drill and Drawing in those classes. We only contend that the Drawing lessons should be easily graduated, and that students should not be required to draw the samples of Drawing given in Mr. Havell's book before they have even learnt to draw lines.

Again, only a very little of Science is prescribed for the Entrance examination, and it has been recommended by the Universities Commission that even that little should not be taught. The only result, therefore, of teaching Botany, Agriculture, Chemistry, and Physics from the eighth to the fifth class will be that the students will forget, in the first four classes, all that they had learnt of those subjects in the lower classes. Is it discreet to oppress students with a load of subjects which will not be required to be studied in after years? Again, to require those who will study Geometry in English from the fourth class upwards to study that subject in Bengali from the seventh to the fifth class is only to render education unnecessarily burdensome. If students be only taught a Bengali Geography of Bengal in the sixth class and a Bengali Geography as well as a Bengali History of India and Arithmetic up to the Decimal Fractions in Bengali in the fifth class, there will be a due gradation in the teaching, with the additional advantage of having all subjects but English taught through the medium of the vernacular.

In his attempt to reform the educational system, Mr. Pedler has done another mischief. In his endeavour to force almost the entire curriculum of middle education into the lower classes of Entrance schools, he has lowered the standard of English teaching in those classes. In comparison with such previous text-books for the Middle English Examination as the *Middle English Reader* or the *Crown Reader*, the *Junior Course of Reading*, the text-book for that examination for 1904, is an easy book In fact, that book is of the same standard as P. C. Sarkar's *Second Book of Reading*, and fit to be the text-book for the third class of a Middle English or the seventh class of an Entrance school. In arranging for the commencement of the study of English two classes higher than at present, Mr. Pedler has lowered the standard of English teaching by two classes. Up to the present moment English has been taught from the eighth class upwards of an Entrance school, from the fifth class upwards of a Middle school, and from the third class upwards of an Upper Primary school. Nowadays a knowledge of English is indispensable for every business in life, so that even in the remotest villages people entertain the services of an English teacher, even in *pathsalas*, with a view to ensure to their sons the advantage of an early English education. It is folly, pure and simple, to oppose a state of things which is necessitated by the circumstances of the country. We are aware of the mischief of having students taught English by incompetent teachers, and we can fully realise the difficulty that students must experience in learning English before they have learnt to

express themselves clearly in their own vernacular. But we see from the Government Resolution on the new scheme of vernacular education, dated the 1st January 1900, that the age of the boys reading either in the first class of a Lower Primary or in the third class of an Upper Primary or in the fifth class of a Middle English or in the eighth (*b*) class of an Entrance school is generally 9 years. Is 9 years, we ask, too early an age to commence the study of English? If it be so, at what age are students to begin learning the English alphabet? It is the verdict of every experienced teacher that boys in this country should commence learning English at the age of 8 years. It is because of the extreme poverty of this country and the niggardliness of Government and the District Boards in the bestowal of grants-in-aid that an attempt is made everywhere to secure the services of an English teacher at the smallest possible cost. The teachers who are so employed are naturally incompetent men, and Government makes this incompetence of the English teachers—a thing for which its own niggardliness is in no small measure responsible—a ground for disallowing the teaching of English in the lower classes of schools. What tyranny!

Now, the Committee that was appointed to enquire into the causes of the very large percentage of failures in the B.A. examination, as well as the Universities Commission, came to the opinion that the percentage of failures was so large because the students who passed the Entrance examination were not well grounded in English. Mr. Pedler is fully aware of this opinion of the Committee and the Commission, and yet the arrangements he has made in regard to the teaching of English in schools goes directly against it. Instead of raising the standard of English teaching in schools, he has *lowered* it. This has given rise to grave doubts in our mind as to Mr. Pedler's fitness for the office of Director. If Sir Alfred Croft had been in office, Sir John Woodburn would never have been able to bring about this educational confusion in the name of educational reform. For the best part of his life Mr. Pedler has been a Professor in a college. Indeed, his service as an Inspector of Schools lasted for only six months. It is easy to imagine what his experience of the working of schools must be under these circumstances.

Owing to his inexperience, Mr. Pedler has done another mischief: he has ruled that students who have passed the Middle English Examination, should be admitted to the fourth class of an Entrance school and not to the third class, as before. The result has been that such students of these schools as are anxious to pass the Mukhtearship Examination or to join vernacular medical schools, have been entering Entrance schools, and that in many cases, Middle English schools have been converted into Entrance schools even in places where no such school can be maintained in a state of efficiency. This is not good for the country, but Mr. Pedler has left the people no choice in the matter. It is our belief that Mr. Pedler has himself no clear idea of what he is after, and that he is doing just as he likes. The sooner he leaves the country and rids it of his presence the better. A correspondent, on reading our previous article on the subject, has written to us strongly complaining of the indifference of the public and their leaders to the evils of the new system. The Education Bill in England, says the correspondent, gave rise to a strong public agitation, in deference to which it was considerably modified. But in this country the educational scheme introduced arbitrarily by Sir John Woodburn and his henchman, Mr. Pedler, has not evoked a single word of protest from either the guardians of the students or the leaders of the community. The Indian Association has sent a representative to Assam to enquire into coolie oppression, but it takes no notice of the oppression that is being committed on lakhs of infants so close to it. A son of the correspondent, aged ten, was last year in the seventh class of the Entrance school in his village and read only an English and a Bengali Reader and worked out sums up to Simple Division. But thanks to Mr. Pedler, on his promotion to the sixth class, he has been burdened with such a multiplicity of text-books as the *Lower English Reader* strangely enough, this book is easier than the English Reader which the boy read in the seventh class), a Bengali Reader entitled "Siksha," a History of India, a Geographical Reader, Practical Geometry and Mensuration, a Drawing Book, the Middle Vernacular Science Reader, and the whole of Arithmetic. The correspondent says that he is not rich enough to have his boy

taught at home by a private tutor, and that if he is to be educated at school, he must remain in each class for two or three years till he reaches the fourth class and is there able to breathe freely.

The political Associations, as well as the Press, should send representatives to the mufassal to collect information about the mischief which is being produced by the new scheme and communicate the information so collected to Government. The guardians of the students of every mufassal school should hold meetings and send memorials direct to the Governments of India and Bengal, describing the confusion that has been brought about in the schools by the new system.

We can hope for much good from the evils of the system being made known to a resolute man like Lord Curzon and a cool-headed man like Mr. Orange. The absurdity of enforcing an educational scheme before teachers have been prepared to impart instruction according to it, should be papable to the dullest intellect.

BASUMATI, Aug. 29th, 1903.

Dr. P. K. Ray's transfer.

18. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 29th August is sorry at the transfer of Dr. P. K. Ray from the Presidency College to the Dacca College. Dr. Ray has been the glory and honour of the Presidency College for the last seventeen years. His transfer to a distant mufassal college is therefore an injustice done to both him and the Presidency College.

BASUMATI.

Unjust punishment of some students in Dacca.

19. The same paper says that on the 3rd August last, a European, who was riding a bicycle, ran over a milkman in Dacca town and fell down. The white man, to his great credit, got up and rode away without saying anything to the milkman. But a police constable, who was standing near the place, arrested the milkman. Some people asked the constable to let him off, but as he would not do that, a quarrel ensued in which he was wounded. The police arrested a number of schoolboys, but as they could not be identified they were discharged. The Principal of the Dacca College, Mr. Russell, was, however, instructed to punish the offenders, and he has accordingly fined thirty boys Re. 1 each. Some street people wounded the constable, but punishment fell to the lot of some innocent students.

BANGAVASI, Aug. 29th, 1903.

Inspecting Officers and text-books.

20. Not to speak of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Schools, says the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th August, even a Director of Public Instruction was once humbled for trying to introduce his own books in the schools under him. An old and experienced Deputy Inspector. posted to an East Bengal Circle, was once degraded and removed from inspection work for the same offence. Instances like these are not rare; still when we see an Inspector or an Assistant Inspector rebuking teachers in the presence of their students for introducing text-books other than those written by himself and decrying those written by others, we become sorely aggrieved. A little enquiry will enable the Director of Public Instruction to collect facts and figures relating to cases like this. In fact, if this scandal goes on for some time longer, officials will be deprived of the privilege of writing text-books.

NIHAR, Sept. 1st, 1903.

The Contai English School house.

21. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 1st September says that a large increase in the number of students in the Contai English School in the Midnapore district has made an enlargement of the school-house an imperative necessity. But the President and members of the School Committee appear to be extremely negligent in this matter. They have prepared a plan and an estimate for a *pucca* building, but the school fund will fall short of the estimate by two or three thousand rupees. This deficit they desire to ask for from the Government. But they are so unmindful of the matter, that they are making inordinate delay in applying to the authorities for help.

PEOPLE AND PRATIVASI, Sept. 1st, 1903.

The Inspector of Schools, Chittagong.

22. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st September has the following in its English columns:—

Moulvi Abdul Karim, the Inspector of Schools for Chittagong, is, we understand, quite a new sort of man. He seems to be a man inspired with a higher sense of duty than what is to be found in the ordinary run. He does the mechanical work, which of course must be done, but he does something more; he stirs up the stagnant pool of filthy! water, investigates the causes of arrested progress,

and inspires others with his own ideal of work. Lately he inspected the Noakhali Zilla School. He not only enquired about the number of students on the roll, examined accounts, and put one or two stray questions to the boys who happened to come near him, but he sought to enforce an ideal, expressed positive dissatisfaction at the low ebb of intellectual and moral culture amongst the boys, gave the Head Master of the school to understand that he would not tolerate ill-bred "roughs" in the Zilla School, which should be an exemplar to private institutions, called a meeting of the guardians, brought home to them the sad intellectual and moral condition of their boys, and asked them to evince a more lively interest in their welfare. This is a singular method of work. We don't know what result it will yield. Most probably it will not be appreciated in this country, where ideals of duties are hopelessly low, but it is a great satisfication to us that there are in the Education Department men with such a conception of duties.

(*e*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

PRATINIDHI, Aug. 22nd, 1903.

Means of improving the cattle in India.

23. The first step, says the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 22nd August, in the improvement of the peasant population of this country, must be the improvement of cattle. The condition of the cattle in this country is gradually becoming worse. The causes are various, the chief among them being (1) want of food, (2) paucity of strong-bodied bulls, and (3) limitation of breeding in the same species. Improvement of cattle cannot be effected without strong-bodied bulls and the introduction of breeding among cattle of different classes. These two methods are beyond the means of the poor cultivators. Government, District Boards, and the zamindars must help them, otherwise nothing will be done. A model farm has been established at Ahmedabad with the help of Government and some patriotic Indians. Much improvement in cattle-breeding has been made by this farm. Farms like the one at Ahmedabad should be established in Bengal. With the help of District Boards, bulls from different places should be maintained at the police-stations. Bulls may be easily imported from Burma, Hissar, and Patna.

SANJIVANI, Aug. 27th, 1903.

Public speaking in the squares and gardens of Calcutta.

24. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 27th August complains that the Calcutta Municipality proposes to make a rule prohibiting the public from making speeches in any garden or square in Calcutta without the permission of the Chairman. The Calcutta Municipality has no power to make any such rule. About twenty years ago it was decided in a Court of law that the citizens of Calcutta had every right to deliver speeches in the gardens and squares. Is there none to oppose the present attempt of the Municipality to take away this right?

HITAVADI, Aug. 28th, 1903.

Tramway matters in Calcutta.

25. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th August says that the Calcutta Tramway Company should make arrangements for a shelter for passengers at the Esplanade Junction. One of the signboards attached to every motor-car should contain the name of its destination in Bengali for the convenience of those who do not know English. Every car should be provided with signboards written in different languages giving the rule that provides for the punishment of passengers entering into or alighting from the cars while in motion. Arrangements should be made for returning to passengers their fares when cars are stopped for failure of the electric current.

HITAVADI.

Roads in the North Dum-Dum Municipality.

26. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the extremely bad condition of the roads in the Nimta village under the North Dum-Dum Municipality in the 24-Parganas district, especially of the roads between the house of the late Ishwar Chandra Banerji and Chaudhuripara, and Dr. Kalimohan Mukharji's house and the late Dwarkanath Ray Chaudhuri's house. All the *cutcha* drains are overgrown with jungle. In many places overhanging bamboos obstruct the roads. The Municipal authorities appear to be blind to these grievances and inconveniences.

BANGAVASI, Aug. 29th, 1903.

The Calcutta Tramway Regulations.

27. The publication of the Calcutta Tramway Regulations, says the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th August, has thrown some people into a laugh, some into anger, and some into astonishment. Some of the rules are no doubt good, such as those regulating the speed of tram-cars and providing for the punishment of passengers entering into or alighting from tram-cars in motion. But how many people obey these rules? The Regulations do not say what the punishment of the driver will be who will not stop a car at the bidding of a respectable man standing in a street in the midst of a shower of rain, but it provides for the punishment of the latter if he enters the car while in motion under such trying circumstances. There are provisions for fining the tram-car driver and the Tramway Company under certain circumstances. But who will pay these fines? The Tramway Company will not pay them, because the Company itself will be in most cases in fault. The matter will surely be settled in law-courts; but will people take the trouble of going to the law-courts to get the Company punished? Arrangements should be made for returning to passengers their fares on failure of the electric current on the lines.

HITAVARTA, Aug. 30th, 1903.

Mismanagment in the Mayo Hospital.

28. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 30th August is sorry that on account of mismanagement in the Mayo Hospital the patients suffer great inconvenience. It has sometimes been seen that not a single physician being present in the Hospital, emergency cases brought from outside for admittance have terminated fatally for sheer want of prompt medical attendance. The authorities ought to direct their attention to the matter.

PEOPLE AND PRATIVSI, Aug. 31st, 1903.

The beef nuisance in Calcutta.

29. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 31st August writes as follows:—

In almost all the places in Calcutta where beef is sold, the surroundings are invariably so very unclean and disgusting that people passing through those places experience almost a nauseating sensation. Many carnivorous birds infest these localities and carry away bits of flesh and bones, and while doing so, often drop these over the heads of the passers-by. It may easily be conceived what annoyance this causes to the Hindus, and that, possibly, it is not pleasing even to the Muhammadans. The spectacle of huge pieces of flesh hanging with the blood dripping therefrom is certainly not a very edifying one, and the farther they are from public view the better. The Calcutta Municipality may issue an order to the effect that screens should be used by dealers in beef in front of their shops and thereby remove a public nuisance.

PEOPLE AND PRATIVASI, Sept. 3rd, 1903.

Annoyance caused by municipal carts in Calcutta.

30. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September writes as follows:—

In the northern part of Calcutta, in every street or lane, it will be found that mud and refuse of all sorts from municipal carts go on falling on the roads as the carts pass along. This can be prevented only by changing the shape of the carts in such a manner as will prevent mud and street-sweepings from falling on the streets out of them. Suitable covers should be provided for each cart, as the stench issuing out of it, causes great annoyance to passers-by. The municipal law requires the drivers of the carts to walk on foot, holding the reins of the horses. But the men get upon the carts and drive so furiously that almost half the contents fall out on the streets. Every morning the deafening noise made by the carts, as they are driven violently, causes very great annoyance. Cannot the Municipality prevent the violent driving of the empty carts and thereby put a stop to the annoyance?

(*f*)—*Questions affecting the land.*

JYOTI. Aug. 27th, 1903.

Government trying to take *khas* possession of *jalkar* in the Backergunge district.

31. The *Jyoti* [Barisal] of the 27th August complains that Government is trying to take *khas* possession of the canals and rivers included in the zamindaris in Backergunge, which have hitherto been regarded as property belonging to the zamindars. In the settlement work now in progress in the Backergunge district, the Settlement Officer has

been empowered to dispose of objections with regard to the right of fishery in the canals, etc., which means that Government is determined upon taking possession of them. Many zamindars will be reduced to penury by the proposed action of Government. The Permanent Settlement has no doubt been a blessing to Bengal, but it is being denuded of its beneficial character in various ways.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

HITAVADI, Aug. 28th, 1903.

32. Referring to the Nalhati outrage case, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th August says:—

The Nalhati outrage case.

On the 16th August last Mr. Collins, the District Traffic Inspector of Sahebganj, and an Inspector of the Government Railway Police went to the Nalhati station to enquire into the matter. Babu Jogendra Nath Roy, the relative of the oppressed lady, did not appear, and we don't know what steps the railway authorities had taken to secure his presence at the station at the time of enquiry. We have, however, supplied the District Traffic Superintendent with Jogendra Babu's address in compliance with his request. During the enquiry the Station Master could not, of course, say anything contrary to what he had written in his report, and had to admit that on the morning following the night of the occurrence the lady identified the accused Booking Clerk. The accused Booking Clerk, Mrigendra Lal Banerji, said in his defence that he had asked the lady for her ticket, and enraged at not being able to give any, she had brought this false charge against him; and there are many people who say that they know this defence to have been concocted by the Station Master. The Booking Clerk could not, however, produce any evidence in support of his statement. The other officers and the menials attached to the station professed ignorance of the whole matter, and this they did at the request and threats of the Station Master. Mr. Collins, however, saw through the whole affair. He has in his report recommended the dismissal of the accused Booking Clerk and the transfer of all the other men attached to the station.

The Station Master was trying to hush up the case from the beginning. His report did not first reach the District Traffic Superintendent's office; and it was only when after two months the case began to be hotly discussed by the public and in the newspapers, that he sent a reminder to the office on the subject. Again, although there had been a great row over the matter in the station on the morning following the night of the occurrence, yet the whole station staff, with the exception of the Station Master and the accused person, deposed to not knowing anything about it. All this points to the conclusion that at first the Station Master did not actually forward the report, although he wrote it in the copy-book. It is for this reason that we drew the attention of the authorities to the alleged loss of the report, but we are sorry and astonished to hear that an innocent man has been made the scape-goat in the matter. Our correspondent says that a few days before the date of enquiry an anonymous letter reached the District Traffic Superintendent's Office to the effect that the signaller in charge of the station had gone to Rampur to take advice and make arrangements for the Booking Clerk's defence, and had torn off the Station Master's report. The correspondent also says that on this evidence degradation and reduction of salary have been recommended against the poor signaller in charge.

Orders have been passed for the transfer of the Station Master to the Pirpaiti station. This appears to be more a reward than a punishment, because Pirpaiti is a better station than Nalhati, fetching large perquisites to the Station Master.

Some time ago the Station Master was fined Rs. 20 by the Railway Company for a grave offence. He is a partner of Messrs. Lahiri & Co., Stone Merchants, and has established the Company's office in the station-house. It is hoped that the District Superintendent will take all these points into his consideration in punishing the offenders in the above case. As regards the non-appearance of Babu Jogendra Nath Roy at the enquiry, the District

Traffic Superintendent should know that Hindus are oversensitive in matters in which the honour of their women is concerned.

BASUMATI, Aug. 29th, 1903.

Thefts in railway trains.

33. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 29th August says that once a Railway Police Inspector had to send a basket of *lichis* from the Howrah to the Burdwan station. The basket was put in the brake-van, and he himself travelled in it in company of the guard. A few minutes after the starting of the train, the guard took out a basket of *lichis* and began to eat out of it. He also offered some of the fruits to the Inspector. The latter told the guard that the basket belonged to him. The guard said, "Never mind," and filled up the basket with *lichis* extracted from another basket. It is in this manner that fruits, sweetmeats, etc., are stolen in trains.

HITAVARTA, Aug. 30th, 1903.

A railway grievance.

34. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 30th August prays that the Agent of the East Indian Railway may favourably consider the prayer of the people living in the vicinity of the Jasodihi station near the Baidyanath Junction that the Bombay Down Mail train may stop at that station. The people of Jasodihi and Deoghar, who generally transact business in Burdwan and Calcutta, have to go, to their great inconvenience, to the Madhupur station to catch that train.

PEOPLE AND PRATIVASI, Sept. 1st, 1903.

A road requiring to be made *pucca* in the Jessore district.

35. A correspondent of the *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st September says that in the rains the condition of the *cutcha* portion of the road between Jessore town and the Altapol village under the Keshabpur thana becomes extremely bad. This causes great inconvenience to the people living within the jurisdiction of the Teshalipur thana, who have frequently to come to Jessore town, which is their head-quarters. Every year the District Board makes one mile of the road *pucca*, but if the local member of the District Board can realise a sum of money by raising subscriptions among the local zamindars, the District Board may make the whole road *pucca* within a short period of time.

ANKURA DARPAN, Sept. 1st, 1903.

Railway complaints.

36. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st September says that the running of goods trains through the Bankura station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has done great good to local *mahajans*. But people are constantly complaining of theft of goods, etc. Some time ago a man wanted to take delivery of a basket of betel and showed his receipt to the Station Master. But the latter refused to give delivery of the basket because its *chalan* had not yet reached him. The poor man represented to him that the betel would rot if held back, but to no effect. A number of tradesmen made an application to the Traffic Superintendent complaining of thefts and grievances in connection with delivery of goods. The Traffic Superintendent came on enquiry and gave them the hope that matters would be set right, but nothing further has as yet been done. Formerly goods used to come to Bankura town by way of Raniganj, and now they come direct to Bankura. But the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company charges more than what the East Indian Railway Company used to charge on sugar, kerosene oil, betel-nuts, and many other articles. A goods-shed and a road leading out of it are sorely needed in the Bankura station, because the want of these things causes great inconvenience and hardship to carters and loss to *mahajans*. Wagon-loads of goods are detached in out-of-the-way places, thereby putting *mahajans* to large expense in taking delivery thereof.

PEOPLE AND PRATIVASI, Sept. 2nd, 1903.

Unjust dismissal of a railway pointsman.

37. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd September says that at about three o'clock on the night of the 29th July last, a pointsman named Gobardhan, attached to the Baidyanath Junction station on the East Indian Railway, was beaten by the guard of a train for having shown a red signal under the Station Master's order. Gobardhan complained to the Station Master against the guard. An enquiry followed, which resulted in an honourable acquittal for the guard and a suspension for the pointsman; but a second enquiry reversed this decision. The guard solicited a third enquiry, which ended in the dismissal of the pointsman. It is astonishing that three separate enquiries gave three different results. What was the pointsman's fault? The editor thinks that his fault lay in his black skin.

(h)—General.

38. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th August, writing from the Bhaturia village in the Burdwan district, says that the local post-office, which has 114 villages within its jurisdiction, has only one peon attached to it. The work of the office is abnormally heavy for one peon, and no man can do it for more than three or four days. The post-office therefore frequently stands in need of a peon, and on these occasions the Postmaster gets the letters, etc., delivered by illiterate men and women, who often make wrong deliveries. Besides this, money-orders have to be taken delivery of at the post-office. To remove all these inconveniences, two peons should be engaged.

HITAVADI, Aug. 28th, 1903.

A postal grievance.

39. Referring to the order recently passed by Mr. K. G. Gupta, Commissioner of the Orissa Division, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 28th August remarks as follows:—

SAMAY, Aug. 28th, 1903.

Mr. K. G. Gupta's circular.

There is a saying that when a Hindu turns Muhammadan, he commits even greater atrocities upon Hindus than one who is a Muhammadan would do. Mr. K. G. Gupta, we find, is going to furnish a good illustration of this maxim. Had he passed a similar order with regard to the Muhammadan mosques, what a world of misery would then have resulted! He knows well that the Hindus are a mild and inoffensive people, and he therefore makes bold to pass such an arbitrary order. But has he acted justly in this matter?

We know that a certain native Magistrate, an uncovenanted Civilian, was degraded by the Government of Bengal for doing some unjust act. This made all of us hang down our heads in shame. But Mr. Gupta, though a covenanted Civilian, has deepened that stain on the character of educated India. If highly-placed Indians of his light and leading can act arbitrarily, with what justice can we then find fault with Europeans guilty of lawlessness and oppression?

Mr. Gupta's circular, although relating to a trivial matter, should not be allowed to pass without a strong protest. It may be made a dangerous precedent by some European official, and Mr. Gupta ought to have viewed it in that light before promulgating it. That he omitted doing this must be regarded as most unbecoming on his part.

When District Magistrate of Nadia, Mr. Gupta took up the cause of the zamindars in the road-cess imbroglio, and displayed remarkable independence in opposing the Commissioner of the Presidency Division. We well remember what view the people of Nadia expressed at the farewell dinner given in his honour when he was on the point of leaving Krishnagar to accept the Excise Commissionership. What a difference between the then Mr. Gupta, the Magistrate of Nadia, and the present Mr. Gupta, the permanent Commissioner of the Orissa Division, and we confess the contrast makes us hang our heads for very shame! Is it because his exalted office has turned his head, and he must please such powerful Englishmen as His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and his Secretaries, that he has issued the circular?

That Mr. K. G. Gupta has really issued such a circular appears certain, as no contradiction has yet been published in the papers.

40. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 30th August says that Lord George Hamilton treats the poor Indians just as a woman treats her step-children. When recently he failed in his attempt to saddle India with a part of the cost of maintaining troops in South Africa, he contrived a scheme for increasing the salaries of the English soldiers in India—a scheme which will cost India not less than Rs. 11,799,000 every year. Unfortunately for India, the Lord Chief Justice of England, to whom the case was referred for opinion as to whether such increase of salary was justifiable, gave his opinion in favour of the scheme. We cannot find fault with His Lordship, because what he, as a Judge, could do was to decide the case in the manner in which it was put to him by Lord George Hamilton. We must blame our own miserable lot. If an agitation be not set on foot against this scheme, and if Government be not so kind as to support us, it will add considerably to our misfortune.

HITAVARTA, Aug. 30th, 1903.

The scheme of increasing the pay of European soldiers in India.

III.—Legislation.

Charu Mihir, Aug. 25th, 1903.

The Bengal Settled Estates Bill.

41. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 25th August writes as follows:—

As a result of the persistent prayers of a certain class of zamindars in Bengal for the grant of certain privileges enjoyed by old zamindar families in Oudh and Madras, Government has introduced the Bengal Settled Estates Bill. The Bill, as it stands, has not probably met the wishes of the zamindars, and the Bengal Landholders' Association has mildly protested against it. Although the middle class people will not be affected by the measure, yet if it be passed into law, there is no knowing whether even talukdars will not try to take advantage of it. Most of the zamindars are, even now, mere puppets in the hands of Government officials. If zamindaris are not allowed to be divided, the talukdars will gradually disappear, and the whole of Bengal will come directly under zamindars. Whether such a state of things will be to the good of the country is a matter for serious consideration by Government. It is well-known how ridiculous it is for a petty talukdar to appear in a Court of law against a powerful zamindar. The zamindar, therefore, should not be allowed to become more powerful than he is now.

Sanjivani, Aug. 27th, 1903.

The proposed enlargement of the scope of the Official Secrets Act.

42. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 27th August writes as follows:—

In 1889 an Act, called the Official Secrets Act, was passed for the punishment of persons who published official secrets. Not satisfied with this, the Government of Lord Curzon is engaged in the task of amending the law, so as to be able to punish those who collect or attempt to collect official secrets. But history teaches that it is when a Government becomes unpopular that thoughtless officials try to put down discontent by means of coercive measures. How is it that when there are waves of joy all round at the extension of Lord Curzon's term of office, Government is so anxious to pass repressive measures against the people? Matters relating to war, etc., no doubt require to be kept secret, but why should there be so much anxiety about keeping matters relating to the administration of the country a secret? Even Lord Curzon, we find, is a supporter of the policy of maintaining secrets. This is ominous.

People and Prativasi, Aug. 28th, 1903.

The proposed enlargement of the scope of the Official Secrets Act.

43. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th August has the following in its English columns:—

The scope of the Official Secrets Act is being extended. Hitherto the Act provided a safeguard against the breach of army and military discipline, but to seek its use for preventing so-called mismanagement and disorganisation in civil administration is only an idea of the reactionary British rulers of the present day. Every administration, nay every firm, every small concern, every household has its secrets, and these small units can all insist on their secrets being kept from the public. But a Government which exists for the interest and good of the people cannot insist on its secrets being treated in the same way as those of a private party. A Government is conducted by frail mortals who have selfishness, prejudice, ignorance, and meanness, and it is not always safe that the hands of the Government should be unnecessarily sought to be strengthened at the expense of the people. A Government which professes to hold the balance even, and does its duty by the different classes of people under it, should not have such secrets as cannot bear the light of the day. Trade has its secrets. A tradesman has many informations, individual efficient methods of doing work which he cannot afford to let his rivals in trade know. But a Government, which is run in the interests of all classes of people, should not have any such secrets about its civil administration whose leakage it looks forward to with a shudder. The publications of some secret circulars of the Government and the proceedings of some conferences in the newspapers may have led the Government to extend the scope of the Official Secrets Act. We have no sympathy with those who publish any secret document they get hold of and thus impress the people with their journalistic enterprise. But while asking our contemporaries to use a little discretion in the matter of publishing secret documents, we remind the authorities that a scrupulous regard for the

secrecy of things can only make the people a confirmed believer in a nefarious design of the Government in all that it does.

HITAVARTA, Aug. 30th, 1903.

44. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 30th August hopes that the Government will not be in a hurry to pass the Official Secrets Act Amendment Bill. As it will affect journalism in India, Government ought to give the native Press reasonable time to discuss the measure. The Bill ought to be considered in meetings of the Viceregal Council in Calcutta.

The Official Secrets Act Amendment Bill.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN, Aug. 24th, 1903.

45. The *Roznama i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 24th August prays that Lord Curzon may take into his favourable consideration the petition submitted to him by Saiyad Akbar Ali and others, of the Kathiawar State, stating that they have been ousted from their *jagir* yielding an income of Rs. 20,000 a year by His Highness the Raja of Kathiawar for no fault of theirs. The *jagir* in question was granted by a Mogul Emperor to an ancestor of their line. The poor petitioners having been thus deprived of their *jagir*, appealed to the Political Agent of that State, but were not granted a hearing. They then appealed to the Bombay Government, but with no better result. It is to be hoped that Lord Curzon will order an inquiry into the case and do justice in the matter.

A prayer to Lord Curzon.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

MEDINI BANDHAV, Aug. 26th, 1903.

46. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 26th August writes as follows:—

Distress in the Midnapore district and official *sulm* upon newspaper correspondents.

We are publishing accounts of distress in the Midnapore district received from our correspondents, and we have no reason to suspect that our correspondents are supplying us with false, exaggerated accounts. But in this sacred work we have met with opposition and difficulties.

A few days ago, in the drawing-room of a certain Deputy Magistrate, some respectable Government officials had a friendly meeting in the evening. In the course of the talk one of the gentlemen remarked that owing to deficient rainfall, half the lands in the Midnapore district were lying uncultivated, that insects were destroying the crops in the fields that had been cultivated, that people were devouring any worthless eatables in their way, falling ill for that reason, and that some people had already died. He was severely taken to task for making these remarks by the officials, who charged him with being a staunch supporter of the *Medini Bandhav*. The officials went on to remark that three-fourths of the land in the district were irrigated by canal water, the cultivation of three lakh bighas of land being thus facilitated every year, and they characterised the newspaper reports as false. Famine in Midnapore is, according to them, an impossibility. They are the men upon whom Government places implicit reliance. Little hope, therefore, remains of Government help in the present distress of the people of Midnapore.

We shall now proceed to show that there is absolutely no truth in the statement that three-fourths of the land in the Midnapore district are cultivated with the help of canal water and there can, therefore, be no famine in that district. The area of the district is 5,100 square miles, or 9,873,600 bighas. Deducting from this 6,873,600 bighas on account of forests, rivers, homestead lands, etc., there remain 3,000,000 bighas for cultivation. Admitting that 300,000 bighas are irrigated by canal water, this represents only one-tenth, and not three-fourths, of the entire area of the cultivated land. Again, it is admitted on all hands, even in Government reports, that rainfall has been very defective this year throughout the Midnapore district. Consequently half the lands have remained uncultivated, and as the season is already far advanced, no hope remains of these lands admitting of cultivation this year. Responsible Government officials, when labouring under misconceptions, cannot fail to do a lot of mischief.

One of our correspondents has recently refused to send us any more reports of distress. The reason for this, he says, is very serious, but he cannot

be prevailed upon to disclose the facts. We are astonished to hear him speak thus.

Our Tamluk contemporary of the *Prajaranjan* thus writes in its issue of the 22nd August:—

In our last issue we published an article headed "Scarcity and complaints," from a correspondent, and we had to suffer great indignities for so doing. Our publisher was summoned by a Government officer to his house, and he held out threats and temptation at the same time, and handed him a letter addressed to another officer. The object of this letter was to induce us, in return for many good offices done, to withdraw the letter published by us and to express our regret for having done so; and he said further that if we refused to do so, he would prosecute us and send us to jail, while compliance on our part would not only save us from these troubles, but would save the honour of certain persons and also procure some addition to our purse. This letter and the draft copy of the letter expressive of regret are in our possession, and we are ready to produce them when required. We know that what our correspondent has written is all true. We need hardly say that we neither fear the threats nor are we willing to accept the offer of rewards. We shall prove the truth of every word uttered by us.

We have no hesitation in saying that the Government officers who are putting obstacles in our way in the sacred task we have taken in hand, are the worst enemies of their country and nation.

PALLIVASI, Aug. 26th, 1903.

47. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 26th August publishes the following reports from correspondents:—

State of the crops in the Raniganj subdivision.

The Raniganj correspondent writes that rainfall was insufficient there up to the 19th August, and that the work of transplantation has been stopped in consequence in many villages.

A correspondent from Charanpur, a village in the Raniganj subdivision, writes that the people are apprehending a famine on account of the failure of the rains.

A correspondent from Patharkuchi, another village in the same subdivision, reports that cultivation has suffered for want of rain. Food-grains cannot be procured even where there is money to buy the same. Famine seems to have already made its appearance in the locality.

NIHAR, Sept. 1st, 1903.

48. A correspondent of the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 1st September says that

Distress in some villages in the Midnapore district.

distress has become extremely severe in Totanala and the neighbouring villages within the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district. Day-labourers find no employment because the fields are lying uncultivated for want of rain. Most of the people have taken to begging. The seeds of the *syama* grass, on which they have been so long living, have all been consumed, and now they will die of starvation if Government makes no arrangement for keeping them alive.

BANKURA DARPAN, Sept. 1st, 1903.

49. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st September speaks of severe distress in Palasdanga, Pakhama and a number of neighbouring villages in the Bankura district. The distress is felt not only by poor and middle class people, but by well-to-do people as well. Repeated failures of crops during the last few years have brought on this state of things, and this year also the prospect of the crops is gloomy. There was a shower on the 17th August last, but not a drop of rain has fallen after that. If this drought continues for a few days more, the cultivator must bid good-bye to his fields this year.

Prospects of the crops and condition of the people in the Bankura district.

Commenting on the above, the editor says that since the 29th August last there have been a few showers of rain in Bankura town, but there has been a complete failure of rains within the jurisdiction of the Chhatna outpost of the Bankura thana. There has been rainfall in the head quarters of the Sonamukhi thana, but none in the mufassal. The drought is severe in most places under the Gangajalghati and Onda thanas. The inhabitants of these places are in severe distress, and Government should enquire whether relief works should be opened in any of these. Last year drought aud distress drove the labourers within the Raipur and Khatra thanas from their homes, but this year the

prospect of the crops in that part of the country is bright. *Tetal*, *chali* and other crops of coarse paddy have begun to ripen, and it is the *tetal* rice which has kept cultivators alive. The condition of the Bahajorha outpost is very miserable.

VI.—Miscellaneous.

50. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 26th August writes as follows:— Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika, Aug. 26th, 1903.

The sunken condition of India.

Those who are in the habit of taking a comprehensive view of the present and the past condition of India and, out of the material thus gathered, try to form an idea of her future condition, cannot fail to realize that she is approaching with rapid strides towards total ruin. The India Office has published a report on the administration of India for the last decade, from which we come to learn what terrible disasters have befallen the country during that period. Plague, famine and numerous other visitations have done their work. But History is a stern instructor, and in its pages, in spite of all the efforts of the Secretary of State to present a roseate view of the country, the hideous picture of misery comes out and mars the beauty of the scene.

The India Office report shows that the population of India has not at all increased during the last ten years. Under normal conditions we should have expected an increase of a crore of people. What better proof, therefore, can be given of the fact that India is daily going down? The population of Bombay, of the Central Provinces, and of Bihar, have greatly decreased. It cannot be said that plague and famine alone are responsible for this decrease. From the published reports we see that the number of deaths from plague was 12 lakhs and the number of deaths from famine not more than 40 lakhs.

But the real cause is to be found in the decay of the arts and industries of the country, in the over-assessment of the land-tax, and in the enormous drain arising from military expenditure, pensions and other charges. The money value of export is greatly in excess of the money value of import. The London *Daily News* once observed: "We have destroyed most of the Indian arts and industries, but have substituted nothing new for the improvement of her financial condition."

If the agricultural status of the country could be improved, there would then be some hope. But in Bombay, Bengal, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, and Berar, the area of cultivated land has not increased. There is therefore no hope for India, while all the destructive agencies—cholera, plague, etc.—are daily devastating the country. Who ever thought that India would be reduced to such extremities under the rule of the civilized English Government? Having lost all their resources, the Indians are now without energy or hope, deeply sunk in despair. Lord Curzon is now our only hope. The independence, the keen sense of duty, and the business habits which characterize His Excellency, inspire us with hope. But if even he fails to work the salvation of the country, its fate will be sealed.

51. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 29th August writes as follows:— Basumati, Aug. 29th, 1903.

Mr. Tilak's conviction.

We Hindus are fatalists, and we are not therefore astonished at the conviction of that great man, Tilak. The man, who is like Brihaspati (the spiritual guide and preceptor of the gods) in learning and wisdom, who is the right hand of hundreds of landholders in Southern India, whose honesty, sense of duty, and spiritual energy have made him an object of worship and adoration throughout the Deccan, who stands in the public eye as the *sal* tree, the lord of the forest, stands among countless lesser plants, all over Southern India, whose fame is established in the society of learned men in the distant island of Albion,—that great and revered man stands convicted of heinous offences in a law-court. Who can arrest the course of fate?

In this world the more onerous the duty the more severe the ordeal of the man who seeks to perform it; but the fire which burns worthless things to ashes serves only to give a brighter hue to gold, and Tilak is like gold among Indians. The whole of Southern India, nay, all Northern India too, is shedding tears at his misfortune. His misfortune has drawn him nearer to us, and to-day we are feeling this tie of affinity nearer to our hearts than we did ever before.

Tilak's health has given way, and there is little hope of his returning from prison. But he has learnt to set a small value upon this mortal existence.

BASUMATI, Aug. 29th, 1903.

The ivory furniture affair.

52. Referring to the ivory furniture affair, the same paper says that every one will feel glad when Lord Curzon will come out with his defence. A great man like His Excellency can never stoop to meanness. Very probably Lady Smeaton has been led by error and impulsiveness to make a mountain of a mole-hill. Native princes may be willing to make presents, but why should Lord Curzon accept them?

DACCA GAZETTE, Aug. 31st, 1903.

Industrial revival in India.

53. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 31st August has the following in its English columns :—

This is a sign of the times that the attention of the people has been drawn to the necessity of industrial revival in this country. Whether this cry is any deeper than the lips that utter it is a matter of sincere doubt. Our people do now honestly think that the time has come when we should cease to tread in the old groove and find fresh avenues for ourselves. The time is long past when the few paternal acres would yield enough and to spare for a tolerably large family, and when a monthly income of Rs. 20 would give the family a lift which hundreds of rupees can now hardly do. Wants have multiplied beyond our means and the stress of life reached a stage beyond which it is all despair. We all feel it keenly as we never did before. It is admitted on all hands that our economic salvation lies in the industrial revival of the country. But as we have said, our cry is simply an echo of that which is raised by others—we are all face to face with the gigantic evil, but few of us can account for it except in borrowed language. It has not yet been denied thta the country is wanting in its resources. Nor has the pressure of population so enormously increased as to have exceeded the limits beyond which the country cannot be developed. The fact is that all our troubles arise from the policy which the British Government has been pursuing since it came to be the supreme power in the land. Foreign domination is no new thing here. Indeed, we have no detailed and reliable records of the times which preceded foreign rule. But, except in rare instances, the foreigners adopted this country as their own and this fact alone made all the difference. The rulers were interested in developing the country and all the money that found its way into the Royal Exchequer remained in the country. If they had given away high posts to their own people, the latter settled in the country and expended every pice in the country itself. There was no foreign exploitation of the country in the sense in which we have it now. The Emperor of Delhi had no remittance to send beyond the Indian frontier. Free-trade, that gospel of British politics, was then an unknown thing, and the conqueror and the conquered became so unified as to form in fact one nation following, however, two distinct systems of religion. They dressed alike and spoke a common language, and it would be difficult to know one from the otherbut for certain differences in trivial details. Highest posts were given away to people of the conquered races, because it was thought that their interests were identical with those of the conquerors. That foreign rule was a national rule, dominated, however, by foreigners. Hyderabad at the present day affords an illustration of the same. How different is the case now! Our rulers live thousands of miles away and their policy is regulated by exigencies of European politics. India is no doubt a part of the Empire, but the place assigned to it is only a subordinate one.

One of the astute politicians of the day—one on whom the peace and prosperity of the world for the time being in so small degree depend—has said that the war of the future will be a war of markets, and it is this conquest of markets which has been exercising the greatest heads of the world. India has no market to conquer, for its industries are well nigh dead; it simply supplies a market. The result is that India is now clothed, fed and nourished by foreign goods. There is thus a continual drain from the country, and the people attempt to meet the strain from profits of agriculture. This they have done for years past. But the result has been the general impoverishment of the country all round. There is no money in the land, and an Indian famine is a famine of money, and money alone. If the people had the money, not a soul would die. The question of industrial revival, therefore, means the acquisition of money; more properly, of wealth. How is that to be accomplished? How is the money that is pouring out of the country to be kept within it? The answer that

instantaneously comes to our lips is, Protection. It is mad to think of India competing with the other nations. They are so immensely in advance that it will take this country years and years to reach that state of perfection. The first thing necessary therefore is to prevent import of foreign goods as much as possible, taking care at the same time to provide for the country's need within the country itself. The first is pre-eminently the duty of the Government, and the second is the duty of the Government and the people alike.

England boasts of being the greatest apostle of free-trade, but already a cry has been raised that most of the advanced nations have got the better of her. And if any proof were needed of it, Mr. Chamberlain's protection tariffs, which have created such noise and opposition, afford one of a most convincing nature. The colonies are in a bad way as regards trade, and England feels that she cannot maintain her supremacy over her extensive possessions without colonial help. She is therefore anxious to bind the colonies to the mother country by strong ties, and no tie is stronger than that created by self-interest. Mr. Chamberlain therefore wishes to give the colonies a lift, and the best way for England to do so is to increase her trade within the colonies by a slap at free-trade to which she has been wedded for years and years. We don't say that it is bad, because we don't care to say anything one way or the other. What we do say is that for countries which have little or no trade, protection is essentially necessary.

As regards the second, it would be suicidal to stop imports altogether without providing for the manufacture of the necessaries of life in the country itself. The way to accomplish it is to be found in the precedent set up by Japan. Forty years ago, the little island was but a name; to-day it ranks as a first class Power in the world. This wonderful transformation has been brought about by the policy followed by Japan. It has sent out its young men by thousands to European countries to learn industries, and the State has ultilised their services to give the country an industrial education. The same policy should be followed here, if the country is at all to extricate itself from its economic difficulties. But this is not possible without Government help. At the same time, people have a part to play, and that is, to cease to use foreign goods as much as possible. Just consider what wealth can be conserved if we all take a vow not to use, say, foreign cloths. This may be somewhat expensive at the start, but it will certainly pay in the long run. And we appeal to our countrymen to think about the matter in the light in which we have put it.

54. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September has the following in its English columns:— PEOPLE AND PRATIVASI, Sept. 3rd, 1903.

"The moral of the Bain case."

Yesterday we referred to the singularly inoffensive mood in which Mr. Justice Sale must have been when he disposed of the Bain case. His Lordship was so much possessed by the Christian spirit that beating on the buttocks with a stirrup leather could not be construed even into causing simple hurt. What is it then? Is it caressing? If a sort of chastisement which is followed by death as a direct or indirect consequence cannot be called simple hurt, we don't know what sort of inflicting pain or injury is to pass under that name. But no more of this.

Our duty does not end with pointing out the singular finding of the English Judge and Jury in every such case. We need not even impute motives to the Government, Judge or Jury. It is not impossible that they take the right view of the case, though that does not unfortunately happen to be our view. But how to protect these coolies? How to prevent these deaths? Deaths from injuries inflicted by an assailant whatever might be his motive can safely be called preventible deaths. We must admit that European managers of tea-gardens must at times be annoyed with their coolies. The management of a garden cannot be so smooth-sailing as not to necessitate high words or kicks and blows. But if every kick or every blow which is administered only as a mild form of chastisement be the immediate cause of the loss of a life, then we must do something to keep a coolie out of harm's way. It is idle to expect that infliction of proper punishment will have the desired deterrent effect. The result of cases like that of Mr. Bain must make us abandon that hope. The justice of our Law Courts is not the sort of justice that people look for. The right thing seldom happens in the Law Courts—mostly the halter is put round the wrong neck and the offender escapes scot-free. So our Law Courts cannot be expected to be of much use in improving the relation between the planter and the coolie.

Vain is also our appeal to the sense of justice of the average Britisher. He does not admit that there is much of oppression in the tea-gardens owned and managed by Europeans. He seems to think that the deaths that now and then result from the most natural insolence of the Europeans must be borne like deaths proceeding from natural causes. Why should there be a clamour from the native Press when such deaths occur? But the Europeans must make allowance for our weakness if we cannot bear the deaths of our countrymen with equanimity. We are not a public-spirited nation, otherwise something would have been done for saving the lives of the coolies. We can see only one way out of this difficulty. Every time the coolies provoke their European masters they run the risk of losing their lives. Under the circumstances, the only way of saving them is to see that they no longer serve under European masters.

But these coolies cannot starve; they have hitherto preferred the kicks and blows of the garden managers to actual starvation. They seem to have thought within themselves that death is all the same, be it from want of food at home or from the rough handling of the Europeans, so let us face the latter contingency rather than drop down dead with family and children at home. Thus the coolies will have to go to Assam gardens and work there with one foot in the grave, simply to keep the wolf from their door, and unless the people of the country largely take to industrial pursuits and divert the channel of native labour towards them, coolies must run to Assam with the full risk of having their spleen ruptured any moment. For as long as the choice will lie between death from starvation, and death from European insolence, which may or may not happen, the influx of native labour towards Assam gardens cannot be put an end to. When people will see that the capitalists of their country own gardens or manufactories where they can expect good wages and kind and sympathetic treatment they will no longer hurry towards those places where misunderstanding, friction, and ultimately death may occur at any moment. We believe if our people take to industries, they can prevent these deaths.

Uriya Papers.

Utkaldipika, Aug. 15th, 1903.

The weather in Orissa.

55. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th August states that the weather is partly clear and partly rainy, and that though rainfall is less than normal, no injury has been done to the standing crop.

Utkaldipika.

Crop prospects in a pargana of the Puri district.

56. The Kothdesh correspondent of the same paper states that the state of the crop in Kothdesh in the Puri district is hopeful, and that if the rains do not fail, a bumper harvest is expected.

Utkaldipika.

Cholera in a pargana in the Puri district.

57. The same correspondent states that cholera prevails in the Kothdesh pargana of the Puri district, and that it behoves the district authorities to send medicines and medical aid to the place, without which lives cannot be saved in time.

Uriya and Navasamvad, Aug. 5th, 1903.

The Raja of Myaurbhanja's donation to the Beadon Madrasa, Balasore.

58. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August states that the Raja of Mayurbhanj has made a donation of Rs. 500 to the Beadon Madrasa in the Balasore town, an institution which works for the benefit of the Muhummadan community in that town.

Samvad Vahika, Aug. 13th, 1903.

The extension of Lord Curzon's term of service.

59. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 13th August approves of the extension of service of Lord Curzon as Viceroy of India, and hopes that His Excellency will take advantage of this extension to do some permanent good to India.

Utkaldipika, Aug. 15th, 1903.

Cholera in Cuttack town.

60. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th August states that out of 15 cholera seizures in the Cuttack town in the last week, there were 5 cholera deaths. The rate of mortality due to that cause has therefore considerably diminished.

Utkaldipika.

The floods in Cashmere.

61. The same paper draws the attention of the public to the distress of the people in Cashmere, due to unexpected and injurious floods in that country, and exhorts them to contribute something towards the relief of the sufferers.

Utkaldipika.

The Bengal Settled Estates Bill.

62. The same paper approves of the principle of the Bengal Settled Estates Bill which is now before the Bengal Legislative Council, and observes that had such a Bill been introduced long before, a large number of

ancient families might have been saved from utter ruin or annihilation. The writer hopes that the details of the Bill will be thoroughly discussed by the representatives of those landed interests who will be affected by the provisions of the Bill.

63. The same paper regrets that the Cuttack Municipality has contracted a debt by spending more than its income, and that its financial condition is therefore extremely bad. This is a state of things for which not only the Chairman and Vice-Chairman but the whole body of Commissioners, including the rate-payers, are to blame. The District Magistrate is also to blame for not controlling its affairs properly.

UTKALDIPIKA, Aug. 15th, 1903.

The municipal debt of Cuttack.

64. Continuing its article on the economic condition of Orissa, past and present, the same paper attempts to establish that education in modern schools and colleges is not the only qualification which makes good officers. Sharp intelligence, strong common sense, resourceful character, clear forethought, and genuine love of men and things, coupled with industry and capacity for work, make men worthy and respectable. These attributes were found in a greater degree among the old class officers. and no one displayed them in a more conspicuous degree than the late Ramprasad, who quelled the rebellions at Banki and Angul and established peace therein by making settlements in both those States. The thorough-going and stable character of the settlement of Orissa in 1837, made by the old class of Uriya Deputy Collectors, compared with the faulty character of the settlement of that Province in 1897, made by highly-paid and well-educated officers, affords another striking instance of the superiority of the old class of officers. To import foreigners into the land of the Uriyas in the name of enlightenment and superior education, and thereby to disregard all native worth and merit, is not a good policy of Government. The abolition of the old Paiks and Khandaits and the resumption of the *jaigirs* were also the results of a mistaken policy. The progress of English education in Orissa is increasing the number of Uriya graduates day after day, but the causes which are at work tending to their discouragement or discomfiture the writer reserves for consideration in another issue.

UTKALDIPIKA.

The economic condition of Orissa, past and present.

ASSAM PAPERS.

65. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 17th August complains that the Hailakandi High English School is being grossly mismanaged. At first 29 members were appointed to form the Committee of Management, but afterwards only five members were allowed to remain, and the names of the rest were struck off. Although Babu Prasanna Kumar Das, B.L., Pleader, was appointed as Secretary, he soon discovered that he had nothiug more to do than signing the account books and other papers, all the work being done by a certain intriguing favourite of the Subdivisional Officer, by whom, subsequently, Babu Prasanna Kumar was compelled to resign his secretaryship. It is to be hoped that the Chief Commissioner and the Director of Public Instruction will interfere in the matter.

SILCHAR, Aug. 17th, 1903.

Mismanagement of the Hailakandi High English School.

66. The same paper says that a monthly grant of Rs. 20 was sanctioned three years ago for all middle vernacular schools at Lala, but the Subdivisional Officer of Hailakandi is unwilling to allow the grant-in-aid for that purpose. He proposes that a middle vernacular school, if at all necessary, should be at Hailakandi instead of at Lala. Very fine argument this, no doubt! There is already a high English school and a primary school at Hailakandi, and a middle vernacular school is certainly not wanted there. Besides, the sons of the poor inhabitants of Lala and other adjacent places will be unable to profit by a school situated at Hailakandi. It is to be hoped that the Subdivisional Officer will see that the proposed middle vernacular school is established at Lala.

SILCHAR.

The proposed middle vernacular School at Lala.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 5th September, 1903.

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